

CLAIMS

1. An aqueous coating composition which comprises:
 - a) water
 - 5 b) in the case of a paint, pigment and
 - c) particles of polyester dispersed in the water which polyester contains repeating hydroxyalkanoate units and wherein at least 60 wt% of the polyester particles have a density of less than 102% of D_{min} , D_{min} being the lowest 10 density attainable by the polyester.
2. A coating composition according to Claim 1 wherein at least 60 wt% of the polyester particles have a density of less than 101% D_{min} .
3. A coating composition as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 15 2 which is a paint or varnish of the type suitable for application to surfaces of the type found on buildings or vehicles or their fittings or furnishings or on metal or plastics containers.
4. A coating composition according to any one of the 20 preceding claims in which the polyester comprises a copolymer of 3-hydroxybutyrate and 3-hydroxyvalerate.
5. A coating composition according to Claim 4, in which the mole ratio of the hydroxyvalerate component is up to 40% of the copolymer.
- 25 6. A coating composition according to any preceding Claim which also comprises a film-forming polymer obtained from monomers in turn obtained from petroleum or vegetable oil feedstocks and present in an amount of up to 95 wt% of the combined weights of the film-forming polymer and the 30 hydroxyalkanoate polyester.
7. A method of painting or varnishing a building or vehicle or their fittings or furnishings or a metal or plastic container, by applying a paint or varnish as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 to a surface by means 35 of a conventional decorating tool or technique.
8. The use of a coating composition as claimed in any one

of Claims 1 to 6 in the coating of a surface of the type found on buildings or vehicles or their fittings or furnishings or on metal or plastics containers.

9. A method or use as Claimed in Claim 7 or Claim 8
5 wherein the surface is non-fibrous.

10. A method or use as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the non-fibrous surface is provided by plaster, masonry, metal or plastics.